

From: Anisa Divine
Sent: Monday, February 23, 2004 6:34 PM
To: Patterson, Elizabeth
Cc: Dabbs, Paul
Subject: Ag Lands Stewardship - following 2/23/04 telecon

Dear Elizabeth,
As promised, here are my comments updated to reflect discussion during our teleconference. I hope all this helps.

Best regards,
Anisa

Anisa Divine, Ph.D., Senior Planner
Resources Planning & Management Dept.
IMPERIAL IRRIGATION DISTRICT

Ag Land Stewardship - comments by Anisa Divine

Page 1 Lines 74-78 & Page 2 Lines 1-10,

Possible rewrite of pesky sentence, Page 1, Line 75: “For the purposes of statewide water planning, cessation of irrigation (irrigated land retirement) may be one aspect of a strategy, termed Agricultural Lands Stewardship, which involves management of productive agricultural lands for multiple benefits, including water management improvements.”

This change, I think, would take care of the following:

Page 2,

Line 20 private grazing lands (are these irrigated)?

Lines 64-70 Although the Ag Lands Steward concept evolved as an option to land retirement, the two are not mutually exclusive... etc., etc.

Page 5, line 13 Land Retirement Demonstration Act ... overall cumulative effects of changing irrigated lands to non-irrigated use.

Page 5, line 42 Watershed Management Strategies - how do these relate to management of irrigated lands

Page 7: Land Retirement – I am not expecting to see this, given the definition above

Page 8 Lines 25-33 – I am not expecting this either

Page 8, Line 35 – Grasslands Reserve – is this irrigation land

Page 10 Line 42 Land retirement may result... does not belong in this section, given definition above

Page 11 Lines 1-9 “Local governments and people are concerned that land retirement... BUT – what is a paragraph on land retirement doing in this section?

Page 13 Lines 6-18, only bullet 2 address Ag Lands Stewardship – rewrite or delete the rest

Page 13 Lines 27 /29 “Land retirement” reference

Page 14 line 1 “...permanent land retirement...” same comment as others above

Other matters:

Question: Page 4 , line 49

Is a farm bill passed every year? If so, for how long does the Farm Security & Rural Reinvestment Act of 2002 last?

Question: page 5, line 48

What is fuel-load management & how does this relate to irrigated agricultural lands?

Not clear: Page 6, Line 23. *It* provides the rural counterpart... What is *it* – agricultural land?

OK from telecon – box will be deleted: Page 6 Temporary land fallowing – PVID in box is for 35 years (is this temporary)?

OK from telecon – box will be deleted PVID box: Page 6, Line 80 – severe water short years – are we expecting 35 of them? – add something to the box to clarify this.

OK from telecon – if this section is rewritten: Page 6, Lines 63-67 “It may be an economic benefit for the landowner as well as the farming community depending on the use of the money paid for this temporary fallowing.”

Unclear: is the farming community depending on the use of the money
or does the economic benefit depend on how the money is used?

OK from telecon: Page 8 Line 37 – what is a “Farm Bill Conservation Security” and how much are the payments per acre

Page 10

OK from telecon – will be edited: Line 41 – what is a physical environmental impact – is there some other kind, perhaps etheric or metaphysical?

OK from telecon – will be edited: Lines 41-43 “Water transfers, and specific soil and crop management may be required if the lands continue to be farmed without irrigation.” – Why would this require a water transfer?

Page 11

OK from telecon – ok after edit on page 1: Page 11 Line 1 rewrite: “Local governments and people are concerned that land retirement... BUT – what is a paragraph on land retirement doing in this section anyway?”

Page 12

OK from telecon – will be edited: Lines 9-12. Does this mean the appropriate State agency is the Department of Conservation? I belong to an RCD & attend the CA RCD meetings, and I believe this is the correct State agency. However, the sentence goes on to include NRCS, which is a federal agency; however, it does support the RCDs. I am not sure whether RCDs are state or federal – even after 4 years,

OK from telecon – will be edited: Line 11 “Identify appropriate State agency...” – the State doesn’t know what the agencies are?

May I suggest: **The state should create a directory that identifies what state agencies coordinates, implements, and provides staff support... (This needs work, but I think it is in the direction of what we were discussing.)**

Page 12

Line 27, Bullet: How can DWR or the State ensure that the NRCS, which is a federal agency, does any particular thing. Through DOC can support the RCDs, I think. Staff should check on this. I have forwarded this write up to Nadine Scott, President of CARCD with a request for a short write up from her.

BOX

OK from telecon – will be moved to the introductory section of Volume 2: BOX: Soft Path. “Although the soft path to meet water needs may also [sic] include infrastructure, it also relies on treatment, sanitation...”

All of these are infrastructure – Rewrite this.

However, I fail to see what this has to do with Ag Land Stewardship

Line 63 “Most other states are partners with USDA: California isn’t?”

The following is material that we did not discuss in the teleconference:

Page 13

This belongs in Volume 2 Intro: Line 5 ... soft path functions – In reading page 12, I did not cue in on soft path. Some text is needed in the body of the text, in addition to the Box.

Line 6 – “strategies for environmental goals of sustainable infrastructure” – jargon, help!

Furthermore, what does this have to do with water?

Lines 6-19, only the second bullet, “Identify the soft path functions of Ag Lands Stewardship” has anything to do with this strategy

Lines 26 – 29 “... effects of agricultural land stewardship and land retirement and fallow programs.”

Rewrite to reflect changes in Temporary Fallowing section: If fallowing programs are not part of ag land stewardship, remove the box about PVID from this strategy. If fallowing programs are a part of ag land stewardship, rewrite this sentence & include all fallowing

programs in this section -- i.e., IID for Salton Sea maintenance + water transfer, and whatever other ones there are in the State -- and provide a list of these.

Line 48 "Use the policy evaluation" -- what Policy evaluation?